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NSC BRIEFING

FRANCE

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I. De Gaulle continues to impress close associates and foreign leaders he has met as desiring thoroughly republican regime securely tied to France's treaty commitments.

A. He is intent, however, on raising France's international prestige.

B. He continues to insist France must have its own nuclear weapons as soon as possible.

C. He wants substantial changes in the NATO Mediterranean command, possibly a division of the command into East and West under UK and France respectively.

D.

II. De Gaulle's key problem is to consolidate his control over the army in Algeria, and to reduce French settler influence over the army.

1. Many extremists increasingly suspicious of De Gaulle's intentions in Algeria.

2. Chief of Armed Forces General Ely has stated that he is very upset with junior officers mixing in politics.

3. Loyalty of De Gaulle's Delegate General Salan is still not clear. He is reported influenced by young colonels.
4. Organization which engineered 13 May coup reported intact and in state of readiness.

C. De Gaulle taking steps to strengthen position.

1. Recent appointment of General Andre Zeller in place of Lorillot as army chief of staff puts vigorous personality in place of man disliked by army because he accepted Ely's job under Pflimlin government.
2. Ely said General Pierre Garbay under consideration as commander of military operations Algeria as counter-balance to Salan.
3. Soustelle expects cabinet appointment in charge Algerian affairs.
 - (a) His views seem closer to De Gaulle's than extremists realize.

III. Recent FLN messages indicate they will attempt widespread action in Algeria on night following De Gaulle's departure.

- A. This action will tend to counteract effect of De Gaulle's conciliatory gestures to Moslems.